

FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 9-18 and 26-29 are pending.

Claims 1-8 and 19-25 are canceled without prejudice to renewal.

New claims 26-29 are added.

Support for the amended and newly added claims is found throughout the specification, and particularly at, for example, page 13, lines 14-26; and page 54, lines 19-27.

No new matter is added.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This is in response to the Restriction Requirement dated November 27, 2002. The Examiner therein required election of one of the following groups of claims:

Group I: Claims 1-18, drawn to methods of assaying TOSO receptor protein binding;

Group II: Claims 19-22, drawn to methods of genotyping; and

Group III: Claims 23-25, drawn to methods of diagnosing apoptosis.

Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the subject matter of Group I, claims 1-18. Applicants expressly reserve the right under 35 USC §121 to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter or any subject matter disclosed in this application during the pendency of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number RIGL002CON.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

Cancel claims 1-8 and 19-25 without prejudice.

Add new claims 26-29.

9. **(Amended)** A method for screening for a bioactive agent capable of modulating the activity of a Toso cell surface receptor, said method comprising the steps of:

a) adding a candidate bioactive agent to a **hematopoietic** cell comprising a recombinant nucleic acid encoding a Toso cell-surface receptor, **wherein said recombinant nucleic acid will hybridize under high stringency conditions to the nucleic acid sequence depicted in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) or its complement;**

- b) exposing said cell to an apoptotic agent that will induce apoptosis; and
- c) determining the effect of the candidate bioactive agent on apoptosis.

10. **(Amended)** A method according to claim 9, wherein a library of candidate bioactive agents is added to a plurality of **hematopoietic** cells comprising a recombinant nucleic acid encoding a Toso cell-surface receptor.

17. **(Amended)** A method of according to claim 16 wherein the binding of said exogenous compound to said Toso protein reduces or eliminates the biological activity of said Toso protein.

18. **(Amended)** A method of according to claim 16 wherein the binding of said exogenous compound to said Toso protein increases the biological activity of said Toso protein.